

SEES A DANGER IN FOREIGN INVESTING

Writer Gives Warning Against III Chosen Placing of American Capital.

URGES CLOSE SCRUTINY

May Avoid Misuse of Money by Studying Countries of Securities Offered.

With the development which peace will bring in Europe and the resultant opportunity for American capital to be opened in foreign fields, there is grave danger that such investments may be ill chosen, that American wealth may go "to these in other countries who would use it not for the world's benefit, but to the unprincipled speculator and the dishonest, whose misuse of money is liable to bring about world's waste." This is the opinion of the writer of an article on "Foreign Investments in Their Relation to the Future of This Country," published in a pamphlet issued by the Bankers Trust Company. Suggestive remedial, or rather preventive steps, which may be avoided, include a close study of important points, as laws and customs of the country, methods of taxation, financial history, foreign trade, banking and currency systems &c.

"After peace has been declared," the article reads in part, "the United States will have entered into the lives of millions of people who have not done before. Development of their industries will be more vital to our prosperity. It is fair to presume that we may have a net annual balance, due us from the rest of the world, of around \$1,000,000,000. This balance can be used to us only through increasing our imports of commodities or service, or through our investment in foreign securities."

"In view of the wonderful development of the United States which was made possible through use of foreign capital, we have before us a positive example of the benefit derived through importation and proper use of such capital."

Wise Investment in All Nations.

"If this nation with an annual \$1,000,000,000 balance can be used to us, we can invest a large part of the amount to bring about proportionate and similar development in other countries, it will be helping up other nations, as well as helping itself."

"Through increased prosperity, countries owing the United States will be better able to pay their debts and after such debts are paid the United States will hold other investments in foreign lands which will help maintain our ability to import those things which our people need."

"The war has shown the great value of foreign investments in a country in emergency. The total foreign obligations held by the United States outstanding January 1, 1918, of which there is satisfactory record amounted to \$9,453,827,830, of which \$7,819,504,760 represented obligations by the United States Government to its Allies. This left \$1,632,823,230 outstanding in the hands of bankers and the public, which represents loans to many countries of the world."

Mere Foreign Loans Important.

"In view of the probable annual balance which will be due the United States from other countries it seems important that further loans be made by our public to foreign nations which they can be properly used for several hundreds of millions of dollars a year."

"If our investments in foreign countries are not well chosen, the wealth of our people does not go to those in other countries who would use it for the world's benefit, but to the unprincipled speculator and the dishonest, whose misuse of money goes largely to waste."

"Some of the most important points that we must study are as follows:

"Laws and customs of the country to which the loans are made.

"Methods of taxation.

"The national income of many of the countries of the world practically ceased at opening of war, because foreign trade was stopped for a period and public revenue was derived almost entirely from direct taxes."

"Financial history of the country.

"The historical statement of its transactions in words and figures. Foreign trade, banking and currency systems. Political and financial integrity, and industrial and social education of its people."

"All of these elements should be considered as they have force in connection with every municipal, public service, industrial transportation, agricultural or mining project, condition of such conditions where the loan is made, the international standing of the parties directly concerned and all other necessary points of inquiry which exist in cases of similar domestic enterprises should be studied."

TO URGE FARE INCREASE.

Carson-Martin Bill Hearing Is Scheduled for Wednesday.

Further steps will be taken next week by bankers, insurance men, traction officials and other railroad security holders to pave the way for a fare increase in New York city. The Carson-Martin bill, which was before the Legislature last year without meeting with success, will be revived on Wednesday at Albany and a delegation of its supporters will go to the capital to urge before a joint hearing of the committees of the Assembly and the Senate the passage of that measure.

The bill provides that the Public Service Commission be granted authority to adjust rates on the traction lines without necessity of going to Albany for legislation. It is believed that if that bill is passed an immediate raise in New York city fare will be made probably by July 1.

While nothing definite could be learned yesterday as to who will attend the hearing, it was disclosed that Theodore P. Shonta, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, will in all probability be present, as will James L. Quackenbush, its controller.

A large representation of the insurance companies of the State will, it is expected, be present, with Charles E. Hughes as counsel. The insurance companies are among the biggest holders of traction securities and the depression of their market values has had an unfavorable effect on the companies.

Morgan Out of Reserve Board.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—J. P. Morgan is no longer a member of the advisory council of the Federal Reserve Board. That his services terminated last month developed to-day when the board announced results of elections in reserve districts.

His retirement is said to be due to the point of rotating the advisory council to bring in new men every year. A Barton Haphorn was elected to succeed him.

Exports From New York.

Wharf, bushels, 104,015; beef, hams, 100; bacon, lbs., 2,905,575; butter, lbs., 1,891,874; cottonseed oil, \$8,375,390; flour, sacks, 1,087; whiskey, gals., 9,920; hams, lbs., 891,300; lard, lbs., 1,789,000; lubricating oil, gals., 51,750.

BONDHOLDERS ORGANIZE.

Owners of New York Railways Co. Issues Form Committee.

A committee representing already \$4,600,000 of the first real estate and revenue bonds of the New York Railways Company has been formed as a result of the "complicated conditions and serious financial problems" with which the company is confronted, according to a statement given out yesterday. The members of the company are Harry Bremer, chairman; William C. Day, Clegg W. Morris, Charles A. Finch, H. R. Hart, Frederick H. Shipton and Harold Swanley. F. J. Frost is secretary of the committee and J. P. Cotton its general counsel.

A committee representing the holders of 100,000 of the 5 per cent bonds, mainly in net deposits and of \$16,200,000 in Federal reserve note circulation are indicated in the Federal Reserve Board's weekly bank statement.

War paper on hand shows an increase for the week of \$23,500,000 and holdings of other discounted paper fell on \$25,600,000 and of advances for \$60,000,000.

A committee representing the holders of 100,000 of the 5 per cent bonds, with John Candie Cobb as chairman, also has been formed. The other members of the committee are Oscar Cooper, Hafley Fiske, Frank L. Hall, Duncan A. Holmes, Ernest Stauffer and Richard H. Swarthout. The secretary of that committee is B. W. Jones, and Murray, Prentiss & Howland are its counsel.

To OFFER NICKEL PLATE BOND ISSUE

New Railroad Securities to Be Placed on Market Are for \$4,000,000.

The New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad has sold about \$4,000,000 second and improvement mortgage series A 6 per cent gold bonds to William A. Read & Co., it was learned yesterday. The bankers will offer the issue to-morrow or next day. The new bonds, estimated May 1, 1918, and due on May 1, 1948, are the first issuance of the total amount of \$35,000,000 authorized. Interest is payable semi-annually. An application will be made to list on the New York Stock Exchange and the company agrees to pay the federal income tax up to 2 per cent of the amount paid in capital to the New York Stock Exchange.

"The new bonds are secured by direct mortgage lie upon the entire property of the company, subject to \$15,250,000 first mortgage banking fund per cent bonds, and \$1,000,000, which can be increased in amount."

The company formerly was part of the New York Central system paralleling the Lake Shore and was allowed to fallow, according to reliable reports. In 1916 under the old management gross earnings were \$15,745,743, net \$12,812,234, against \$12,515,350 gross and \$2,058,607 balance for interest in 1915. Under the local management of Cleveland interests gross in 1918 rose to approximately \$22,600,000 and balance was \$1,000,000.

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